

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A ~~eutinase variant containing a substitution of the residue position corresponding to site 192~~ of the *Pseudomonas mendocina* cutinase consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the amino acid sequence of said variant consists of substitutions of Met at position 192, Val at position 194, and Gly at position 219 of SEQ ID NO:2, and wherein said variant has increased polyesterase activity ~~and/or enhanced thermostability~~, as compared to ~~wild-type the~~ *Pseudomonas mendocina* cutinase consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

Claims 2-38 (canceled)

Claim 39 (currently amended): A ~~eutinase variant containing a substitution of the residue position corresponding to site 194~~, of the *Pseudomonas mendocina* cutinase consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said variant consists of a substitution of Ile or Asn at position 194 of SEQ ID NO:2, and wherein said variant has increased polyesterase activity and/or enhanced thermostability, as compared to ~~wild-type the~~ *Pseudomonas mendocina* cutinase consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 40 (currently amended): The cutinase variant of claim 39, wherein said substitution is ~~Met at position 192, and wherein said variant further contains the substitutions Val at position 194 is Ile, and Ser at position 219.~~

Claim 41 (currently amended): The cutinase variant of claim 39, wherein said ~~residue at position 194 is substituted with Ile, Leu,~~ substitution at position 194 is Asn, or Pro.

Claims 42-44 (canceled)

Claim 45 (currently amended): The cutinase A variant of ~~claim 43~~ the *Pseudomonas mendocina* cutinase consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said variant consists of substitutions of residue at position 194 is substituted with Ala, His, Lys, Leu, Asn, Pro or Ser at position 194[[,]] and ~~said residue at position 219 is substituted with Gly at position 219 of SEQ ID NO:2~~, and wherein said variant has increased polyesterase activity and/or enhanced thermostability, as compared to the *Pseudomonas mendocina* cutinase consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 46 (currently amended): The cutinase variant of claim [[39]] 45, wherein said ~~variant comprises a substitution of the residue at position 194 with is Ala or His, and substitution at position 219 with Gly.~~

Claim 47 (currently amended): The cutinase variant of claim [[39]] 45, wherein said substitution at position 194 is [[Ile]] His.

Claim 48 (currently amended): The cutinase variant of claim [[39]] 45, wherein said substitution at position 194 is Lys ~~or Leu, and wherein said variant further contains a substitution of the residue at position 219 with Gly.~~

Claim 49 (currently amended): The cutinase variant of claim [[39]] 45, wherein said ~~variant contains Asn as the substitution of the residue at position 194 is Leu.~~

Claim 50 (currently amended): The cutinase variant of claim [[39]] 45, wherein said ~~residue substitution at position 194 is substituted with Asn, Pro, or Ser, and wherein said variant further contains a substitution of the residue at position 219 with Gly.~~

Claim 51 (new): The cutinase variant of claim 45, wherein said substitution at position 194 is Pro.

Claim 52 (new): The cutinase variant of claim 45, wherein said substitution at position 194 is Ser.

Claim 53 (new): A variant of the *Pseudomonas mendocina* cutinase consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said variant consists of a substitution of Leu or Pro at position 194 of SEQ ID NO:2, and wherein said variant has enhanced thermostability, as compared to the *Pseudomonas mendocina* cutinase consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 54 (new): The cutinase variant of claim 53, wherein said substitution at position 194 is Leu.

Claim 55 (new): The cutinase variant of claim 53, wherein said substitution at position 194 is Pro.